(a) whether various companies engaged in manufacturing of pesticides are using dangerous chemicals;

(b) whether any investigation is made from time to time about the safety measures adopted in these companies by Government, so that a situation like Bhopal gas tragedy may not arise;

(c) whether a company in Faridabad near Delhi engaged in pesticide manufacturing is using dangerous chemicals without any licence and employees have given a memorandum to Assistant Director, Industrial Safety and Health and Chemicals in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Pesticides are used to control pests and insects and therefore, inherently hazardous. Since several hazardous chemicals are used in manufacturing of different kinds of pesticides, safety measures to be adopted are in-built in the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed there under. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture is the Nodal Department for this Act. Registration with the Registration Committee, constituted under the Act is a pre-requisite for import or manufacture of insecticides (pesticides). The Registration Committee has prescribed minimum infrastructure facilities for the companies engaged in manufacture of insecticides. After registration, a license to manufacture insecticide has to be obtained from the Licensing Officer of the respective State where the insecticide is proposed to be manufactured. The Licensing Officer is required to inspect the manufacturing premises and ensure availability of minimum infrastructure facilities for manufacture of insecticides for which a manufacturer is obtaining the manufacturing license. Minimum infrastructure facilities include reasonable premises, requisite plant and machinery, protective clothing, equipment, including respiratory devices and other facilities for workers including first-aid measures as well as availability of antidotes. The manufacturers are also required to arrange suitable training in observing safety precautions and handling safety equipments provided to them. All the persons who are engaged in the work of handling, dealing or otherwise coming in contact with the insecticides during their manufacture or formulation are required to be periodically medically examined by a qualified doctor.

(c) and (d) There is no such report available with the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India which is the administrative Department for the Insecticides Act. Implementation of the Insecticides Act including the licensing, falls under the purview of the State Government.

Subsidy on Fertilizers

†1284. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is taking any measures to reduce the burden of subsidy on fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy on fertilizers at present and the criteria being prescribed to effect a cut in it in future so that its burden does not fall on farmers also?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present the total requirement of fertilizer subsidy for 2008-09 projected at Revised Estimates (RE) is Rs, 1,16,278 crore (gross) or Rs. 1,13,308 crore (net) including the carry over liability of Rs 5,000 crore from 2007-08. The price recovered from the farmers is MRP. MRP of fertilizers is as under :-

Maximum Retail Price of Fertilizers

(Rupees per MT)

Product	As on 17.06.2008	From 18.06.2008
Urea	4830	4830
Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP)	9350	9350
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	4455	4455
Mono-Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) (*w.e.f.* 1.4.2007)	9350	9350
Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) (*w.e.f.* 1.4.2008)	7460	7460
Single Super Phosphate (SSP) (*w.e.f.* (1.5.2008)	3400	3400
Ammonium Sulphate (AS) (*w.e.f.* 1.7.2008)		10350
Grades of Complex Fertilizer – N:P:K:S		
16:20:00: 13 (earlier 16:20:00)	7100	5875
20:20:00:00	7280	5343
20:20:00:13	7280	6295
23:23:00:00	8000	6145
28:28:00:00	9080	7481
10:26:26:00	8360	7197
12:32:16:00	8480	7637
14:28:14:00	8300	7050
14:35:14:00	8660	8185
15:15:15.00	6980	5121
17:17:17:00	8100	5804
19:19:19:00	8300	6487

Above indicates that there is no additional burden on the farmers.